

QUADERNI



# CIRIGLIANO HISTORY, STORIES, PEOPLE

Events, Places, and Traditions of the People of Cirigliano

Corrado Urgo   Marcello Urgo



CENTAUREA

*“Quann se’ v’nout? A’ia st’ n’ pécch? Com’ staceit’?”*  
*“When did you come back? Will you be here for a while?*  
*How have you been?”*

This book is a tribute to Cirigliano, its history, and its community.

The patient and passionate research begun by Giuseppe Urgo, continued and completed by his son Dino and his grandson Marcello, has made it possible to reconstruct the historical memory of a village: its places, families, traditions, documents, and photographs that tell the story of its evolution over time.

At a time when many small communities are experiencing steady depopulation and collective memory risks fading away, these pages seek to preserve and pass on a heritage of history, identity, and belonging.

This volume is dedicated to the people of Cirigliano, to everyone who still maintains a bond with this land, and to all those who recognize their roots as an essential part of their identity.

**Corrado Urgo** was born in Cirigliano in 1949. Since 1956 he has lived in Matera with his family.

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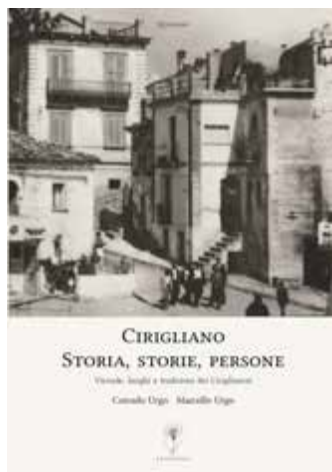


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# CIRIGLIANO

## *Storia, storie, persone*

Vicende, luoghi e tradizioni dei Cirigliesi



*Cirigliano - Storia, storie, persone* è il risultato di un progetto di ricerca maturato nel corso di tre generazioni, dalla raccolta documentaria di Giuseppe (Peppino) Urgo al completamento dell'opera da parte del figlio Corrado (Dino) e del nipote Marcello.

Attraverso documenti d'archivio, fotografie, testimonianze e ricordi, il volume ricostruisce la memoria storica di Cirigliano: i luoghi, le famiglie, le tradizioni, la vita quotidiana e le vicende delle amministrazioni comunali dall'Unità d'Italia ai giorni nostri.

Un'opera dedicata ai Cirigliesi, agli studiosi di storia locale e a tutti coloro che riconoscono nelle proprie radici un patrimonio da conoscere e tramandare.

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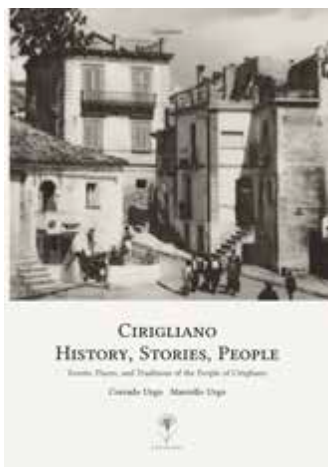
CENTAUREA EDIZIONI

# CIRIGLIANO

## *History, Stories, People*

Events, Places, and Traditions of the People of Cirigliano

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*Cirigliano - History, Stories, People* is the result of a research project that matured over three generations, from the documentary collection begun by Giuseppe (Peppino) Urgo to the completion of the work by his son Corrado (Dino) and grandson Marcello.

Drawing on archival documents, photographs, testimonies and memories, the book reconstructs the historical memory of Cirigliano: its places, families, traditions, everyday life, and the history of its municipal administrations from the unification of Italy to the present day.

A book for the people of Cirigliano and their descendants, for local-history researchers, and for anyone who sees cultural roots as a heritage worth knowing and passing on.

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Book page



CENTAUREA EDIZIONI

# CIRIGLIANO

## HISTORY, STORIES, PEOPLE

Corrado Uργο Marcello Uργο

EVENTS, PLACES, MEMORIES,  
AND TRADITIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF CIRIGLIANO



## PREFACE

This work originated from an idea that remained with me for many years. Perhaps I have taken rather a long time to bring it to fruition, but what matters most is that it has finally been completed. My enduring hope has been to leave future generations a record of their village and a source of information about its history. Even today, the loss of shared knowledge between people separated by only a couple of generations is such that many no longer know the names, nicknames, or family connections of their fellow villagers. With the notes I have gathered over many years and the documents I have been able to locate in various archives or that their owners have generously made available to me, I hope that both young and old may come to know and remember their village more fully.

Giuseppe Uργο

The material presented here is the result of the research and archival work carried out by my father, Giuseppe Uργο, known to everyone as Peppino. Over many years he collected a wide range of information about Cirigliano, the village where he was born and which he loved deeply. It remained close to his heart throughout his life, and it was there that he wished to return in his final years.

I am Corrado, known as Dino, the eldest son of Peppino Uργο. My father entrusted this collection to me with the intention that I would prepare it for publication. A succession of unforeseen events, however, delayed its completion. Having lived for many years in Matera, my visits to Cirigliano have gradually become less frequent. I now return mainly to walk through the village and remember my father, the places, and the people that shaped my childhood.

In recent years the village has changed profoundly, and its population has continued to decline. As of January 2026, only 279 residents remain. Many of the shops and artisan businesses that once formed the fabric of daily life have disappeared. Today, the social life of the village revolves largely around one restaurant and café, *Il Mulino*, which provides an important meeting place for local residents, returning emigrants, and visitors alike. I also enjoy spending time there whenever I am in Cirigliano. This year, however, my visit left me with a deep sense of sadness: there was almost no one left.

It was this feeling that prompted me to return to the work my father had left behind.

With the invaluable assistance of my son Marcello, I was finally able to complete the project and bring this book to publication.

My father's original collection contained a description of the village, together with historical information, demographic data, and accounts of the local economy and the occupations of its inhabitants. It also included material on the mayors of Cirigliano and the history of the municipality, accompanied by numerous newspaper clippings that he had carefully preserved, many referring to events that occurred during the years when he himself served as mayor. A substantial portion of his work was devoted to the successive municipal administrations. Drawing upon extensive archival research and records that he personally transcribed and typed, he reconstructed the history of local elections and municipal administrations over a period of more than a century.

To this valuable body of material we have added several updates in order to bring the narrative up to the present day. We consulted historical documents covering the period from 1864 onwards to complete the history of the municipal administrations. We have also included additional information about the village, its landmarks, and its traditions, together with some of my own recollections of the people I knew and the customs I observed and took part in at Cirigliano, especially during the summers I spent there as a child and later as an adult.

This book is dedicated to all the people of Cirigliano. Through its texts and images, it seeks to present the village, its community, and its history. The section devoted to the history of the municipality traces the succession of local administrations from Italian unification to the present day, drawing extensively on original archival documents. By publishing this book, we have sought to do what my father himself wished above all: to pay tribute to Cirigliano, to its history, and to the people who have preserved its memory with dedication and a deep attachment to their home village.

Before concluding, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many people whose generosity and expertise made this work possible: my wife Rosaria; my son Giulio, who designed the graphic layout of the volume; Tiziana Pirretti, Rossella Baldelli, Rosangela Bruno, and Giusi Macchia of the State Archives of Potenza; Pietro Sannelli, Carmela Carretta, and Giuseppe Gaudiano of the State Archives of Matera; and Angelo Carbone, Ada Quirino, Rosanna Curzio, Lucia Filippo, Antonio (Tonino) Venice, Antonio (Tonino) Garrambone and his wife Maria.

I hope that every reader with family ties or an emotional connection to Cirigliano will find within these pages something that speaks to their own experiences, memories, or origins, and that this work will help preserve the collective memory of a community that, though small, has always safeguarded its identity with pride.

Dino Urgo, April 2026

# INTRODUCTION

Cirigliano is located 99 kilometres from Matera and can be reached by travelling along State Road 277 from Grassano railway station, or State Road 103 from Pisticci railway station. In recent years, the Sauro Valley road has been completed, and construction is underway on a new road running along the Cirigliano stream.

Once this road is finished, the distance from the Basentana highway will be reduced by only a few kilometres. More importantly, because the entire route will be over relatively level terrain, the travel time from Matera will be shortened by approximately thirty minutes. Its inhabitants are known as *Ciriglianesi*. As of 31 December 1997, the population numbered 496.

Cirigliano occupies an almost entirely mountainous territory of approximately 1,500 hectares, making it the municipality with the smallest land area in Basilicata. The village stands on the slope of Montepiano, at an elevation of 656 metres above sea level, on the site where the ancient settlement of *Caelianum* is believed to have stood.

The earliest known references to Cirigliano occur in ecclesiastical bulls dated 1060 and 1123 as belonging to the Diocese of Tricarico.<sup>1</sup> In 1154 it was held in fief by the Pagano family of Cirigliano under the Count of Montescaglioso. King Ladislaus I of Anjou-Durazzo, who ruled the Kingdom of Naples from 1386 to 1414, later granted Cirigliano, together with Castelmezzano, to Giacovello Moccia. In 1487 the fief of Cirigliano was purchased by Pascasio Azgarlon and later acquired by Ettore della Marra in 1556.

By the end of the sixteenth century it belonged to the Iannellis family and, in 1595, it was acquired by Giovanni Battista Coppola, possibly an ancestor of Dr Luigi Coppola, former prefect of Potenza, who, perhaps out of attachment to his family's origins, spent his holidays at his villa in the Montepiano forest, in the locality of Serra Verde, overlooking this small but attractive village.

Cirigliano later passed to Francesco Formica, and the descendants of the Formica

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<sup>1</sup>This refers to the bull issued in 1060 by Godano, Archbishop of Acerenza, addressed to Arnaldo, Bishop of Tricarico, and to the bull issued by Pope Callixtus II on 7 October 1123, addressed to Pietro, Bishop of Tricarico.

barons still spend their holidays in the castle with its distinctive oval tower.

In his 1899 book on Stigliano, Giuseppe Pennetti [1] wrote of Cirigliano:

A municipality with 1,700 inhabitants and a territory of 1,000 hectares, partly wooded and insufficient for the farmers of the town. It is situated on a hill 650 metres above sea level. It is surrounded by higher mountains that limit its horizon. It was enclosed by walls and towers.

The baronial castle, largely rebuilt, still preserves in its original state a tower and a few halls. Attached to it is a chapel open to the faithful. Cirigliano bears as its coat of arms a tower flanked by two rampant lions.

Antonio Racioppi, in the general part of the work entitled *The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies Described and Illustrated* [2], calls the town *Celiano* and says:

According to the Antonine Itinerary, the distance from Oppido to Celiano was forty ancient Roman miles. Guided solely by the similarity of the name, geographers have generally identified it with present-day Cirigliano, despite the fact that the recorded distance does not correspond precisely.

It is true that on one side of the village, surrounded by precipitous cliffs, ancient tombs have been discovered, attesting to its antiquity, and that the remains of two marble funerary cippi with fragmentary Latin inscriptions survive, noteworthy less for their archaeological significance than for their palaeontological interest, since their fractured surfaces reveal fossilized fish, with heads and jaws still distinguishable.

Nevertheless, during the eight years that we resided there, from 1828 to 1836, we found it difficult to believe that a public road leading to Heraclea could ever have passed directly through the village. Situated above the confluence of the stream known as the *Fiumarella di Cirigliano* and another torrent, rising sheer above them to a height of several thousand palms, the village is connected to the broad ridge of *Montepiano* to the north only by a steep and arduous ascent that entirely rules out the possibility of a major public road.

We are therefore inclined to believe that, if such a road ever existed, it must have passed approximately one and a half miles north of Cirigliano before turning toward Stigliano near the country house of Don Antonio Rossi in the district of *Montepiano*.

Regarding the origin of the village's name, Giuseppe Pennetti [1] refers to the writings of Giovanni Flechia [3], who argued that the endings *-ano* and *-ana*, common in the place names of southern Italy, indicate landed possession and derive from Roman family names:

**Original:**

Questo suffisso *ano*, formante principalmente aggettivi col significato di appartenente a ..., fu appropriato a derivar possessivi da gentilizii, applicati principalmente a designar la proprietà de' beni stabili, e per lo più congiunti originalmente con *fundus*, *campus*, *ager*, *hortus*, *saltus*, ....

Cirigliano [...] trae la sua etimologia da *Caerelius*, cioè fu edificato nella proprietà di Cerellio. *Caerallius* trovasi spesso nelle iscrizioni, ed un *fundus Caerellianus* è nella tavola alimentare dei Bebbiani, un altro in quella di Velleia.

**Translation:**

This suffix *-ano*, primarily used to form adjectives meaning “belonging to ...”, came to be used to form possessive adjectives from Roman family names, chiefly to designate landed property, originally associated with terms such as *fundus*, *campus*, *ager*, *hortus*, and *saltus*.

Cirigliano [...] derives its etymology from *Caerelius*; that is, it developed on land belonging to Caerelius.

The name *Caerellius* appears frequently in inscriptions, and a *fundus Caerellianus* is recorded in the *Tabula Alimentaria* of the Ligures Baebiani<sup>2</sup>, while another is recorded in the *Tabula Alimentaria* of Veleia.

Giuseppe Pennetti also writes:

**Original:**

La parte antica del paese che era cinta da mura è compresa fra il Castello e la Chiesa Madre. La nuova si estende dal Castello in rettilineo pianeggiante. [...] Cirigliano ha due scuole, una cassa di risparmio, monte frumentario e Congrega di Carità con l'opera pia di S. Antonio e S. Rocco.

**Translation:**

The ancient part of the village, formerly enclosed by walls, lies between the Castle and the Mother Church. The newer quarter extends from the Castle along a straight, level axis. [...] Cirigliano has two schools, a savings bank, a grain bank, and a Congregation of Charity administering the charitable foundations of Saint Anthony and Saint Roch.

Today, these two districts are still known locally as *terra*, the old quarter, and *serrone*, the newer quarter.

Giuseppe Urgo<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>A Roman inscription recording a system of loans secured against agricultural estates, the interest on which financed assistance for impoverished children in the Ligures Baebiani, a community settled in Samnium.

<sup>3</sup>Editorial note. — The following introduction was written by Giuseppe Urgo in the late 1990s and has been retained substantially in its original form. References to population, roads, and contemporary conditions therefore reflect the situation at the time of writing.

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PART I

CIRIGLIANO

# 1

## CIRIGLIANO

### The Village

Cirigliano is a small village in the province of Matera, situated on a slope within a landscape enclosed by higher mountains. The municipal territory borders those of Aliano and Gorgoglione to the west, Accettura to the north, and Stigliano to the east; to the south it is bounded by the Gorgoglione and Cirigliano streams and the Sauro Valley.

The village faces east towards Stigliano and extends along the edge of a deep ravine known locally as *u cent* (see Figure 2). The western slope, facing the village of Gorgoglione, descends gently towards the Gorgoglione stream. To the north, the settlement is overlooked by Montepiano, while its southern end terminates abruptly at *ndret a chis*, a steep promontory overlooking the stream (see Figure 4 and Figure 3) and the Sauro River.

The urban layout is characterised by narrow, stepped streets that are inaccessible to cars. In some places, however, simple ramps have been built to make them passable by small two-wheel tractors and wheelbarrows, though not by cars.

Three streets connect the village's main square, Piazza IV Novembre, with the historic centre, running along the length of the old village from north to south:

***a vei' r' aut*** – The *upper street*, now Via Regina Elena, which runs from the Chapel of the Formica Barons to the Church of the Assumption.

***a vei' r' minz*** – The *middle street*, Corso Regina Margherita, which also begins at the Barons' Chapel and ends at the Church of the Assumption, lying to the west of Via Regina Elena.

***a vei' r' vasc'*** – The *lower street*, which begins at Piazza Plebiscito, opposite the entrance to the Castle, descends through Largo Addolorata and Via Garibaldi before continuing from Vico Decimo Regina Margherita to the Church of the Assumption.



**Fig. 1:** View of the historic centre of Cirigliano from the north (2015).



**Fig. 2:** View of Cirigliano, with Stigliano in the background, taken from State Road 103 within the municipality of Gorgoglione.



Fig. 6: Example of a traditional house built with Cirigliano stone (1980s).



Fig. 7: Postcard view of Cirigliano (c. 1950).

## The People of Cirigliano

According to Giuseppe Pennetti [1], at the end of the nineteenth century Cirigliano had a population of approximately 1,700 inhabitants. Census data from 1861 to 2021<sup>4</sup> reveal a long-term decline in the village's population, with the sharpest losses occurring after 1961 (see Figure 8). Between 1961 and 1981, the resident population declined by 575 people, reflecting a combination of economic, social, and environmental factors.

The 1960s were a period of rapid economic growth and rising living standards in Italy. Unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy steadily declined. However, these developments also placed increasing pressure on Cirigliano's traditional economy, which was still largely based on small-scale farming and livestock breeding. Although most inhabitants were poor and possessed very little cash, they generally produced enough to support their families and educate their children.

The prospect of regular wages, improved living standards, and access to consumer goods such as household appliances and automobiles encouraged many people to leave the village in search of employment elsewhere. The principal destinations were northern Italy, other European countries (especially France, Germany, Belgium, and the United Kingdom), and the Americas (particularly the United States, Argentina, and Venezuela), where many people from Cirigliano had already emigrated. Established family networks made it easier for newcomers to settle, find employment, and attain a degree of economic security that was difficult to achieve by remaining in Cirigliano. Most emigrants were

<sup>4</sup>The population figures are taken from the Italian national censuses, which were conducted almost every ten years between 1861 and 2011, with a few exceptions: the 1936 census was brought forward, while no censuses were held in 1891 and 1941 because of financial constraints and the Second World War, respectively. Since 2018, ISTAT has introduced a permanent annual census based on statistical sampling and administrative records.

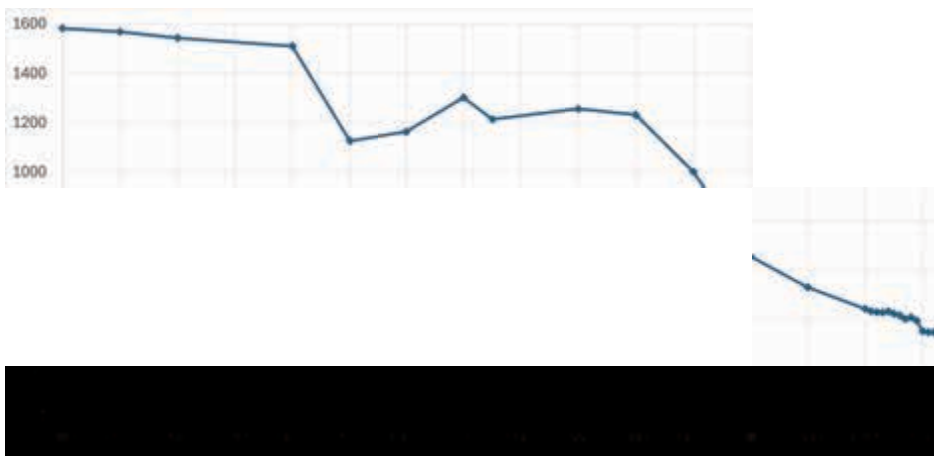


Fig. 8: Resident population of Cirigliano. Authors' elaboration based on ISTAT data.

men, while their wives and children remained in the village. The remittances they sent home significantly improved their families' economic circumstances. Many houses were renovated, and living standards gradually moved closer to those found in Italy's more prosperous urban and industrial areas, allowing most families to acquire consumer goods such as refrigerators, televisions, and cars.

Many of those who had left in search of better opportunities returned to the village during the summer holidays to spend time with relatives and friends in the homes they still owned. They often arrived in new cars and returned with accents, clothing, habits, and attitudes shaped by the places in which they now lived, temporarily transforming the rhythm of village life. Their more confident manner of speaking, accents influenced by their adopted homes, style of dress, and general outlook had become markedly different from those of the year-round residents.

Not everyone welcomed this annual influx. Many villagers viewed the younger visitors' more relaxed attitudes and behaviour with suspicion. Nevertheless, summers in Cirigliano during those years were lively and full of activity. Amateur football matches were organised against teams from neighbouring villages; journeys to Gorgoglione for matches were often made on foot. Communal lunches and dinners were frequent, relying on the cooperation and generosity of the entire community and drawing participants from across the community.

Between 24 and 28 March 1973, a massive landslide dealt a severe blow to both the village's economy and its population. The event affected the northwestern part of the village, an area that had already experienced similar events in the past, and was following a period of prolonged heavy rainfall. Part of the hillside at the northern entrance to the village, opposite the Church of Saint Lucy, slipped southwestward, displacing or destroying houses, farmland, and sections of road as the ground moved towards the Gorgoglione stream (see Figure 9). Although the landslide caused no fatalities, it inflicted extensive damage and deeply shocked the inhabitants. Many were mindful of similar disasters elsewhere in Basilicata, particularly the landslide at nearby Craco, which led first to the abandonment of numerous homes and eventually to the evacuation of the entire settlement.

On the night of the disaster and in the days that followed, adult children and other relatives of local residents travelled from northern Italy to Cirigliano. Distressed by the seriousness of the event and fearful for the future, many persuaded their relatives to leave Cirigliano with them or made arrangements for them to do so.. Local recollections suggest that the departure of these families was an important contributor to the substantial population decline recorded between the 1971 and 1981 censuses (see Figure 8).

In the years that followed, life in Cirigliano was inevitably shaped by broader crises affecting Italy and Basilicata, including the energy crisis of the 1970s, the 1980 Irpinia earthquake, and the industrial decline of the Basento Valley. More residents were compelled or encouraged to leave the village and join relatives and friends in nearby



**Fig. 9:** Houses in the Sant'Antonio district destroyed by the 1973 landslide.



**Fig. 10:** Damage caused by the landslide to State Road 103 near the northern entrance to Cirigliano.

cities such as Matera, Potenza, and Salerno, while emigration to northern Italy and abroad also continued.

As at 1 January 2026, Cirigliano had 279 residents: 129 males and 150 females. The oldest resident is 99 years old, while the youngest was under one.

## PART II

## PLACES

# 3

## THE CASTLE

The Castle of the Formica Barons is one of the most recognisable landmarks of Cirigliano. Its tower, in particular, dominates the village skyline and, together with the closely clustered stone houses, has become its principal architectural symbol.

Standing at the heart of the village, the castle overlooks Piazza IV Novembre, the traditional meeting place and social centre of Cirigliano. Its imposing mass and architectural layout reflect its original defensive role.



Fig. 13: The Castle of Cirigliano viewed from Piazza IV Novembre.



**Fig. 14:** The Castle of Cirigliano, showing the rear of the Barons' Chapel and the tower, viewed from the southeast.

Historical sources describe the complex as a feudal castle in existence by the Angevin and Aragonese periods. Its most distinctive features include the oval tower, the keep, the internal courtyard, and a large ceremonial hall. The Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows is incorporated into the complex (see Chapter 6), an integral part of the baronial residence and one of the complex's principal surviving interiors (see Figure 14).

The available evidence suggests that the present castle developed over several centuries from a medieval core that was repeatedly altered and enlarged. A recent publication issued by the Basilicata Regional Government states that the baronial castle was constructed in 1593 on the remains of an earlier Late Byzantine fortification. The same source notes that, despite several alterations over the centuries, the latest of which dates to 1842, the building has retained the principal features of its historical layout.



Fig. 15: The entrance portal of the castle and its tower.

The history of the castle is closely linked to that of the feudal families who ruled Cirigliano. Historical sources record that the property passed to the Coppola family in 1595, when it was purchased from the Iannellis family for 13,000 ducats. Later, in 1750, it was acquired by the Formica barons, the family with which the castle has remained associated in both local historical memory and its customary name.<sup>5</sup>

Among the castle's most striking features is its oval tower, which forms the defining element of the entire complex. Several sources describe it as an unusual feature of the baronial residence, and some recent journalistic and popular accounts attribute its design to Pietro D'Agincourt. Since this attribution appears primarily in non-scholarly sources, however, it should be treated with caution. The tower's elliptical form gives the Castle of Cirigliano a highly distinctive silhouette, immediately recognizable among the fortified residences found in Basilicata's smaller towns. Other architectural details, including the finely carved projecting stone corbels, further distinguish the building and reflect a level of craftsmanship that is unusual for a rural fortress. These features retain forms derived from medieval military architecture, although they now serve primarily a decorative function.

Another important phase in the castle's history occurred during the nineteenth century, when the building underwent extensive renovation. An inscription on the façade reads:

This ancient castle, first acquired together with the baronial title by Filippo Formica in 1593, was restored to a finer form in 1843 by his descendants, the brothers Filippo, Angelo, and Giuseppe, after the abolition of the symbols of feudal jurisdiction<sup>6</sup>.

Although the sources differ slightly as to whether the restoration took place in 1842 or 1843, the inscription provides valuable evidence of the nineteenth-century remodelling of the building following the abolition of feudalism.

The castle continues to occupy a central place in the identity of the village. The *Silver Tower Award* (see Chapter 17), presented annually in Cirigliano for several decades, takes its name directly from the castle's tower, whose image appears on the award plaque.

In February 2026, the Municipality of Cirigliano purchased the baronial complex from the brothers Angelo and Vincenzo Formica, bringing the property into public ownership with the intention of transforming it into a new cultural centre serving both the village and the wider mountainous area of the province of Matera.

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<sup>5</sup><https://fondoambiente.it/luoghi/1-intero-paese-di-cirigliano>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.regione.basilicata.it/cirigliano-riacquista-il-castello-baronale/>



Fig. 16: The Castle of Cirigliano viewed from Largo dell'Addolorata.

## PART IV

# EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

# 13

## SAINT JAMES

Cirigliano celebrates its patron saint, Saint James, on 25 July. Like several saints whose feast falls in late July, Saint James is traditionally associated with the rains that bring relief to the fields after the summer heat. The religious celebrations begin in the morning with Mass in the Mother Church. At the end of the service, the procession carrying the statue of the saint sets out from Piazza IV Novembre, continues toward Piazza Municipio, goes through the village, and eventually reaches the Sant'Antonio district before returning to the church (see Figure 68 and Figure 69, in which Salvatore Pasciucco, then sacristan of Cirigliano, and Pasquale Bonelli (*u' guardij*), the municipal police officer, can be seen. The route between these two outermost points may vary from year to year so that the procession passes through different parts of the village, for example along some of the side streets branching from Corso Umberto I.

The procession was, and still is, opened by two lines of worshippers walking along either side of the street, ahead of the priests, altar servers, and public authorities. Immediately behind them come the *ceri*, ceremonial structures made of candles and carried on the heads of the faithful, which precede the statue of Saint James. The marching band and the remaining participants follow at the rear. During the procession, different groups bid for the privilege of carrying the statue of the saint for part of the route or into the Mother Church. The privilege was traditionally awarded to the group making the highest offering, which was then placed in the donation box accompanying the procession. The contest was settled through a monetary offering, which was then placed in the donation box accompanying the procession.

Especially during the years when Cirigliano had a larger population, the religious feast was accompanied by secular celebrations featuring market stalls, events, and entertainment. One of the best-remembered activities of the 1980s was a speed-eating competition in which participants had to eat spaghetti with tomato sauce without using their hands.



**Fig. 68:** Cirigliano, celebrations in honour of Saint James. Procession in Piazza Municipio on its way to the Mother Church (1960s).

PART V

STORIES AND TRADITIONS

## When Did You Arrive? When Are You Leaving?

Every summer, like many other families who had left the village to settle in Matera, Potenza, Salerno, northern Italy, or abroad, I returned to Cirigliano for the holidays, to see friends, relatives, and old acquaintances once again.

As soon as I arrived, the customary questions would begin: “When did you get here?” (*Quann se’ v’nout?*), “Are you staying for a while?” (*A’ia st’ n’ pécch?*), “When are you leaving?” (*Quann t’ n’ v’i’?*), and “How are you all?” (*Com’ staceit’?*). In the minds of those who had remained in Cirigliano—as in every community that had experienced large-scale emigration—it had become normal to see people arrive only to leave again shortly afterwards.

When I replied that we intended to stay for about a month, the answer was almost always one of resignation: “They’ve taken everything away from us!” (*N’ ann’ luot’ tutt cos’!*), “We’re becoming nothing more than a lonely farmhouse!” (*Staceim r’v’ndann’ ’na massareij!*), “There are only a handful of us left!” (*Seim rumuos’ quatt’ ga’tt!*).

## The Sausage Skin

One evening, a group of young men from Cirigliano gathered together before one of them left to begin his military service. They wanted to spend the evening in one another’s company, saying their farewells over a few glasses of wine, some cheese, and a few links of homemade sausage. The sausage was carefully peeled and sliced into thin rounds. Everyone ate and drank with pleasure.

At that time, poverty was widespread in Cirigliano, and many people did not have enough food. After a while, one of those present, somewhat embarrassed, timidly suggested: “Shall we eat the sausage skin as well?”

After a few moments of hesitation, everyone agreed that it was a good idea, and in no time the entire sausage skin had disappeared.

## I Am the North!

A humble farmer from Cirigliano met one of the village notables, a lawyer by profession, and challenged him with a riddle:

*Ie’ so’ u’ nord! Ce’ ie’? “I am the North. What am I?”*

The lawyer remained silent.

The farmer tried to explain his question more clearly, but again the lawyer had no answer.

After waiting a little longer, the farmer finally revealed the solution. On the northern side of tree trunks, moss grows because that side receives less sunlight. Therefore, if he was “the North,” then he must be the moss, *u lepp*.

PART VI

THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIONS

# INTRODUCTION

This part of the volume is devoted to the administrative history of Cirigliano, reconstructed through official documents, personal testimonies, and archival materials covering the period from Italian unification to the present day.

The aim of this work is to provide the most complete and systematic account possible of the succession of municipal administrations over more than a century and a half. The political and administrative life of a small community such as Cirigliano offers a valuable local perspective on the social, economic, and civic transformations that have shaped Italy as a whole.

A substantial portion of the material presented here comes from the archive assembled by my father, Giuseppe Urgo, who documented with patience and dedication the municipal elections, the succession of mayors, and many of the most significant moments in the public life of Cirigliano.

My father worked at the Prefecture of Matera from 1955 until his retirement in 1988. During the final years of his career, particularly while serving in the electoral Office, he acted as a liaison between the Ministry of the Interior and the local electoral offices. In this role, he helped collect the results received from polling stations, compile them into official reports, and transmit them to the Ministry for formal validation.

Thanks to both his professional position and his personal interest in local history, my father gathered a remarkable collection of information concerning the electoral history of the municipality of Cirigliano. His research in the archives of the Prefecture of Matera, now preserved in the State Archives of Matera, forms the basis of the information presented here concerning the municipal councils and council resolutions from the early twentieth century through to the 1990s.

For this period, my father also prepared a series of typewritten summary documents, which I have chosen to preserve and reproduce in this volume. I considered these documents valuable not only as historical records but also for their deep personal significance. For this reason, I preferred to reproduce them in their original form rather than converting them into newly prepared statistical tables. His long career in public administration was followed by his service as mayor of Cirigliano from 1985 to 1990.

Although extensive and carefully organised, the material he collected did not cover the complete succession of municipal administrations. To complete the sequence, my son Marcello and I continued the research ourselves, undertaking further investigations in the State Archives of Potenza and Matera, as well as consulting published sources, online databases, and other documentary resources.

The result is the most complete reconstruction of Cirigliano's municipal administrations that the surviving evidence currently permits. It is accompanied by transcriptions of original documents through which the voices of the period can be heard directly through council minutes, official correspondence, electoral records, and administrative reports.

In addition to reconstructing the history of local government, the archival research has also shed light on many aspects of the village's political and social life, from political rivalries and local tensions to the impact of major national events. It has also documented the initiatives that accompanied the modernisation of Cirigliano, including the construction of the public washhouse, the installation of the sewerage system, the provision of public drinking fountains supplied by the Apulian Aqueduct, and the construction and improvement of the roads providing access to the village.

For this English edition, unless otherwise indicated, all translations from Italian are by the authors. Punctuation, capitalisation, and sentence structure have occasionally been regularised to improve clarity and readability. Names, dates, official titles, public offices, administrative bodies, and the substantive meaning of the original documents have been preserved as faithfully as possible. Where historical terminology has no exact English equivalent, the translation follows the closest appropriate usage, while retaining the original Italian term where necessary.

Dino Urgo, Matera, April 2026

was also responsible for verifying the eligibility of those elected, ensuring that they met the legal requirements relating to property, age, and the absence of any grounds for incompatibility.

In municipalities with fewer than approximately 10,000 inhabitants, the mayor was not elected directly by the citizens but appointed by Royal Decree on the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior. The appointment was made from among the elected municipal councillors, and the office was held for a three-year term beginning in January. The decree of appointment was published in the Official Bulletin of the Province and formally communicated to the municipality. The newly appointed mayor then took an oath of loyalty to the King before either the Municipal Council or the Prefect.

As head of the local administration, the mayor presided over both the Municipal Council and the Executive Committee. At the same time, however, he also acted as an officer of the central government in his capacity as a government official. In that capacity, he was required, when necessary, to execute the orders of the Prefect, even when these conflicted with resolutions adopted by the Municipal Council. The Council itself possessed no authority to dismiss or censure the mayor, whose removal remained the exclusive prerogative of the national government.

### **Appointment of the Mayor for the 1864–1866 Term**

On 1 January 1864, the Municipal Council was constituted on the basis of the results of elections held between 1861 and 1863. Table 1) presents the demographic and electoral data, Table 2 lists the councillors, and Table 3 records the members of the Municipal Executive Committee.

The official table of elected councillors is dated 15 February 1864, only a few weeks after the council took office. In that document, the Subprefect of Matera proposed Giovanni Santomassimo for appointment as mayor [5], giving the following reasons:

Given the lack of suitable candidates in Cirigliano, among the very few persons who might hold the office of mayor, Mr Santomassimo is to be recommended above all others, since he possesses the qualifications necessary to discharge its duties properly.

The proposal was approved by the Prefect of Potenza in the same document. However, on 23 February 1864, the prefect wrote to the Commander of the Carabinieri in Potenza:

...in the list transmitted to me with the note referred to in the margin, you make no recommendation for the appointment of the mayor of Cirigliano, in the District of Matera. I would therefore ask you to remedy this omission and, at the same time, to inform me whether there is anything to be held against one Giovanni Santomassimo, and to provide me with information concerning one Angelo Fanelli, who has been indicated to me as a person sufficiently qualified to hold the office of mayor, although somewhat overbearing.

The letter was registered by the Office of the Prefect of Potenza under number 1137 and dated 23 February 1864 [6]. It was also connected with an earlier note sent by the Commander of the Carabinieri in Potenza to the same prefect, registered under number 8171 and dated 7 November 1863, which it has not been possible to locate.

The appointment was confirmed by Royal Decree of 19 June 1864. On 28 July of the same year, Santomassimo took the oath before the Deputy Judge of the District of Stigliano, marking the beginning of his term [7].

**Table 1:** Demographic and electoral data for the municipality, updated to the end of 1863

|                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Electors registered on the municipal electoral rolls | 44 |
| Electors who voted in 1861                           | 42 |
| Electors who voted in 1862                           | 17 |
| Electors who voted in 1863                           | 18 |

For the newly appointed mayor, the beginning of his term was not without difficulty. Only a few months after taking office, he became involved in an investigation for having authorised the collection of a fee for transcribing the oral declarations of illiterate citizens required for assessing and registering the value of movable property.

In this regard, on 19 October 1865, an official of the Ministry of the Interior, writing on behalf of the Minister, addressed the Prefecture of Basilicata in Potenza to request further information [8]:

Florence, 19 October 1865

Subject: Proceedings against the Mayor of Cirigliano

**Table 2:** Composition of the Municipal Council as of 1 January 1864

| No. | SURNAME      | GIVEN NAME   | AGE | OCCUPATION | RESIDENCE  | VALUATION <sup>a</sup> | YEAR <sup>b</sup> | VOTES <sup>c</sup> |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-----|------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1   | Bonelli      | Giovanni     | 30  | Shoemaker  | Cirigliano | 80                     | 1861              | 33                 |
| 2   | Fanelli      | Angelo       | 60  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 20 000                 | 1861              | 34                 |
| 3   | Mattiacchia  | Leonardo     | 42  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 300                    | 1861              | 32                 |
| 4   | Santomassimo | Giovanni     | 35  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 500                    | 1861              | 28                 |
| 5   | Manzone      | Michele      | 68  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 500                    | 1861              | 25                 |
| 6   | Villone      | Giuseppe     | 32  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 500                    | 1861              | 22                 |
| 7   | Dangoia      | Vincenzo     | 68  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 300                    | 1861              | 28                 |
| 8   | Petrizzi     | Vito Nicola  | 61  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 300                    | 1861              | 20                 |
| 9   | Montano      | Matteo       | 29  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 100                    | 1861              | 19                 |
| 10  | De Rosa      | Pasquale     | 82  | Priest     | Cirigliano | 400                    | 1861              | 16                 |
| 11  | Quirino      | Giambattista | 41  | Priest     | Cirigliano | 1 000                  | 1862              | 11                 |
| 12  | Urgo         | Giuseppe     | 47  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 400                    | 1862              | 5                  |
| 13  | Montano      | Giuseppe     | 59  | Landowner  | Cirigliano | 400                    | 1863              | 12                 |
| 14  | Fortuna      | Giuseppe     | 45  | Mason      | Cirigliano | 200                    | 1863              | 9                  |
| 15  | Fortuna      | Antonio      | 68  | Shoemaker  | Cirigliano | 200                    | 1863              | 8                  |

<sup>a</sup> Approximate value, expressed in ducats, of the real property owned within the Municipality of Cirigliano.

<sup>b</sup> Year of election to the Municipal Council.

<sup>c</sup> Votes received in the election to the Municipal Council.

**Table 3:** Municipal Executive Committee and votes received (1864)

| Name                  | Office              | Votes received |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Manzone Michele       | Full alderman       | 12             |
| Santomassimo Giovanni | Full alderman       | 12             |
| Quirino Giambattista  | Substitute alderman | 12             |
| Petrizzi Vito Nicola  | Substitute alderman | 12             |

The Ministry of Grace and Justice has transmitted to this Ministry of the Interior the judicial records concerning Giovanni Santomassimo, Mayor of the Municipality of Cirigliano, who is accused, during the distribution of the forms for declaring taxable movable wealth, of having collected twenty or twenty-five cents from each illiterate taxpayer as payment for the clerk who completed the said forms. This was contrary to Article 42 of the regulations governing the application of the tax, under which the mayor is required to receive the oral declaration of an illiterate taxpayer and enter it on the form himself.

The Royal Public Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Potenza, stating that the acts attributed to the aforementioned official have already been established, considers that the Sovereign authorisation provided for under Articles 8 and 110 of Municipal Law No. 2248 of 20 March 1865 should be sought in order that proceedings may be brought against him.

The undersigned, having been asked to express an opinion as to whether it would be appropriate to seek such Sovereign authorisation, and wishing first to receive a detailed account of the circumstances described above, hereby requests this Prefecture to submit a report.

Mayor Santomassimo justified his conduct by arguing that all the landowners in Cirigliano were illiterate and that Councillors Villone and Manzone had devoted considerable time and effort to preparing the declarations. For that reason, they had requested payment, which he had initially authorised.

After realising, however, that the authorisation did not comply with the applicable regulations, Santomassimo voluntarily admitted the matter to the Subprefect. His admission was not sufficient to prevent further consequences, and on 20 August 1866 the Subprefect authorised the commencement of criminal proceedings against him.

No detailed information has so far been found in the surviving contemporary documents concerning any subsequent resignation by Mayor Santomassimo or the final outcome of the criminal proceedings.

### **Appointment of the Mayor for the 1867–1869 Term**

At the end of 1866, specifically on 31 December, the Municipal Council was constituted on the basis of the electoral results recorded during the preceding five years, from 1861 to 1865 (see Table 4). The composition of the new municipal council is shown in Table 5. The Council also elected the Municipal Executive Committee, consisting of two full

## Municipal Elections of 12 May 1985

Municipal elections were held on 12 and 13 May 1985, at the same time as the regional elections. The results are summarised in Figure 116 and Figure 117.

At its first meeting, held on 1 June 1985, the Municipal Council validated the election of its members and elected Giuseppe Uργο as mayor [137]. The new mayor took the oath of allegiance to the Italian Republic on 6 June 1985 [138].

The life of this municipal administration was marked by continuous, and at times specious, opposition to the mayor and the Executive Committee from the council minority and, in particular, from one councillor. Council meetings were often held in a highly tense atmosphere, fuelled by complaints, appeals, and the publication of press articles critical of the mayor's administration.

Although Giuseppe Uργο had lived in Matera for more than thirty years, he approached the office of mayor with commitment and constant dedication, sustained by his deep emotional attachment to his native village. Although he was not an experienced driver, he made the journey between Matera and Cirigliano every week in order to fulfil his institutional duties.

Drawing on thirty years of experience in public administration, he placed both his professional expertise and the network of contacts and relationships developed over the years at the service of the Municipality of Cirigliano.

His administration sought external partnerships and initiatives in an effort to explore and test new forms of support for the local economy and to counter the progressive depopulation and economic and social decline of Cirigliano.

Cirigliano's economy had historically been based on small-scale farming and livestock breeding. Giuseppe Uργο therefore attempted to open the village to tourism by promoting its local resources: the natural environment, wholesome food products, clean air, traditions, and tranquillity.

Given the widespread presence of natural springs, the mayor worked to promote the quality and beneficial properties of the local water. In collaboration with a lecturer from the multidisciplinary Institute of Hygiene Sciences at the University of Messina, chemical and bacteriological analyses were conducted. These indicated beneficial effects on digestion and liver function.

Further initiatives concerned the promotion of mushrooms and truffles. Mushroom gathering was already an established practice, but the presence of truffles had never been confirmed, although oral tradition referred to animals digging in the woods in search of underground tubers. A mycology conference held in Cirigliano, followed by a field survey in Montepiano Wood, confirmed that the local environment was well suited to the growth of both white and black truffles.

At the same time, the administration promoted the development of tourist accommodation with the aim of attracting visitors from the urban centres of Basilicata and from

- ELEZIONI AMMINISTRATIVE COMUNALI del 12 Maggio 1985

Eletto Sindaco il Sig. URGO Giuseppe

- R I S U L T A T I -

POPOLAZIONE (Censimento 1981 )

657

LISTE PRESENTATE nr. 3

LISTE ammesse nr. 3

|            |                                       |           |    |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| LISTA nr.1 | Ramoscello d'ulivo                    | candidati | 12 |
| LISTA nr.2 | Spiga di grano                        | "         | 12 |
| LISTA nr.3 | Scudo crociato con scritta "Libertas" | "         | 12 |

|                                |              |              |            |            |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Elettori: - Maschi             | <u>275</u>   | Femmine      | <u>303</u> | Totale     | <u>578</u> |
| Votanti: - Maschi              | <u>213</u>   | Femmine      | <u>246</u> | Totale     | <u>459</u> |
| Schede bianche:                | <u>9</u>     | Schede nulle | <u>14</u>  | Totale     | <u>23</u>  |
| Elettori che non hanno votato: | m. <u>62</u> | f. <u>57</u> | Totale     | <u>119</u> |            |

VOTI VALIDI ALLE LISTE:

|              |                                       |      |            |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|------|------------|
| Lista nr.1 - | Ramoscello d'ulivo                    | Voti | <u>116</u> |
| Lista nr.2 - | Spiga di grano                        | Voti | <u>88</u>  |
| Lista nr.3 - | Scudo crociato con scritta "Libertas" | Voti | <u>212</u> |

CANDIDATI ELETTI (Voti di lista ed individuali)

|                         |                     |        |                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. URGO Giuseppe        | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>225</u> |
| 2. DE ROSA Giuliano     | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>222</u> |
| 3. MONTANO Carmine      | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>222</u> |
| 4. CAPALBI Filomena     | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>221</u> |
| 5. PORTUNA Gerardo      | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>221</u> |
| 6. URGO Pietro          | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>221</u> |
| 7. DECANIO Giuseppe     | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>220</u> |
| 8. TORRETTA Antonio M.  | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>220</u> |
| 9. CIRRELLI Maddalena   | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>219</u> |
| 10. MIRAGLIA Tommaso    | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>219</u> |
| 11. MASTRONARDI V/zo    | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>218</u> |
| 12. SCALZITTI Francesco | Lista n. <u>3</u> - | D.C.   | Voti <u>217</u> |
| 13. MANZONE Antonio     | Lista n. <u>1</u> - | Civica | Voti <u>125</u> |
| 14. COPPOLA Giuseppe    | Lista n. <u>1</u> - | "      | Voti <u>123</u> |
| 15. ROMEO Tommaso       | Lista n. <u>1</u> - | "      | Voti <u>123</u> |

Fig. 116: Summary of the results of the elections held on 12 May 1985 (1)  
(document prepared by Giuseppe Uργο).

CANDIDATI NON ELETTI

|                          |                     |      |     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------|-----|
| 1. PICA Felice           | Lista n. 1 - Civica | Voti | 121 |
| 2. BRUNO Sisto Salvatore | " 1 - "             | Voti | 120 |
| 3. PILIERO Luigi R.      | " 1 - "             | Voti | 120 |
| 4. DELORENZO Marco V/zo  | " 1 - "             | Voti | 120 |
| 5. DELORENZO Marco       | Lista n. 1 - "      | Voti | 120 |
| 6. NAPOLEONE Giuseppe    | Lista n. 1 - "      | Voti | 119 |
| 7. URGIO Antonio         | Lista n. 1 - "      | Voti | 119 |
| 8. VIOLA Giuseppe        | Lista n. 1 - "      | Voti | 119 |
| 9. CILIBERTI Francesco   | Lista n. 1 - "      | Voti | 118 |
| 10. DI CRISCI Annibale   | Lista n. 2 - "      | Voti | 91  |
| 11. URGIO Maddalena      | Lista n. 2 - "      | Voti | 90  |
| 12. QUIRINO Francesco    | Lista n. 2 - "      | Voti | 90  |
| 13. MONTINERO Rocco D.   | Lista n. 2 - "      | Voti | 89  |
| 14. DE ROSA Domenico A.  | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 15. LONGO Francesco      | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 16. BARTOLOMEO Vincenzo  | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 17. MONTANO Alessandro   | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 18. CAPALDI Prospero     | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 19. BRUNO Maria Donata   | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 20. SAPONARA Rocco       | " 2 - "             | Voti | 89  |
| 21. DELUCA Luigi         | " 2 - "             | Voti | 88  |

Nella prima seduta del Consiglio Comunale neo eletto e cioè il

7 Giugno 1985 si procede alla nomina del Sindaco e degli assessori.

Con voti 12 su 15 viene nominato Sindaco il Sig. U R G I O  
Giuseppe .-

Assessori effettivi:

Mastronardi Vincenzo  
Montano Carmine

Assessori supplenti:

Urgio Pietro  
Miraglia Tommaso

Fig. 117: Summary of the results of the elections held on 12 May 1985 (2)  
(document prepared by Giuseppe Urgio).



Fig. 118: Mayor Giuseppe Urgo taking the oath of office at the Prefecture of Matera.



Fig. 119: The mayor taking the oath of office at the Prefecture of Matera. From right to left: Mayor Giuseppe Urgo, Deputy Mayor Vincenzo Mastronardi, and Councillor Gerardo Fortuna.

other regions. The tourist offering centred on the natural environment, opportunities for walking and excursions, local traditions, and quality of life: features capable of meeting the needs of people living in congested urban areas.

This strategy also included the identification and promotion of trails and nature routes through which visitors could discover the territory (see Section D.4 on page 236).

The other initiatives undertaken by the municipal administration during Mayor Urgo's term are described in the mayor's own words, taken from the speech he delivered at the end of his administration on the day the new Municipal Council took office:

Before handing the chair to the senior councillor so that the Council may continue with the agenda, and before wishing all the newly elected councillors success in working together, in unity and fraternity, for the benefit of the people of Cirigliano, I believe it is my duty to provide an overview of the projects completed by the outgoing administration:

1. Wastewater treatment tank. The contract for the enlargement of the village wastewater treatment tank was awarded by the previous administration, but the work was begun and completed by our administration.
2. Pantoni–S. Maria Vignola road. The contract for the second section was awarded and the work completed by us. A further loan of 296,000,000 lire has now been secured to complete the road and extend it as far as the Porcile locality.
3. Chalet. Approximately two years ago, our administration awarded the contract for the final section of work on the chalet at Acqua Furr, valued at 60,000,000 lire. A further 80,000,000 lire is now available for its completion.
4. SS 103–Montepiano road. The contract for the second section, valued at 75,000,000 lire, was awarded approximately two years ago. A further loan of 150,000,000 lire has now been arranged with the Deposits and Loans Fund for the third section.
5. Public slaughterhouse. The contract was awarded by the previous administration, but the work was begun and completed by us. Through our efforts, we obtained non-repayable funding from the Basilicata Region: 16,000,000 lire for meat transport and 20,000,000 lire for equipment and furnishings. We also increased the municipal staffing establishment by two positions.
6. Second Pescora road. An allocation of 75,000,000 lire was made for the first section. A further 250,000,000 lire is currently planned for completion of the road.
7. S. Pietro road. Funding of 200,000,000 lire; work is in progress.
8. Sewerage network. Funding of 70,000,000 lire; work is in progress.
9. Repairs to the school building. Funding of 60,000,000 lire.
10. Tempa di Falco–Salegrino road. Funding of 50,000,000 lire is available through the municipal treasury.
11. Croce di Altarello–Serra Verde road. Funding of 370,000,000 lire has been included in the Regional Plan.
12. Sports ground. Funding of 200,000,000 lire.
13. Surveys under Law No. 219. All 141 surveys have been approved.
14. Furnishings for the Municipal Hall. Funding of 40,000,000 lire is available.

I conclude by wishing all councillors success as they continue with the agenda, and I extend that wish to the entire five-year term of the new administration, in the interests of the whole population of Cirigliano, which needs a united administration capable of addressing the problems of the community.

## PART VII

## APPENDICES

## D.2 1885 – Establishment of the Independent Electoral District of Cirigliano

*Il Numero 2991 (Serie 3<sup>a</sup>) della Raccolta ufficiale delle leggi e dei decreti del Regno contiene il seguente decreto:*

**UMBERTO I**

**per grazia di Dio e per volontà della Nazione  
RE D'ITALIA**

Sulla proposta del Nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari dell'Interno, Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri,

Veduta la domanda del comune di Cirigliano per la sua separazione dalla sezione elettorale di Gorgoglione, e per la sua costituzione in sezione elettorale autonoma;

Veduta la tabella generale delle sezioni dei Collegi elettorali, approvata col Regio decreto del 24 settembre 1882, n. 997 (Serie 3<sup>a</sup>);

Visto l'articolo 47 della legge elettorale politica 22 gennaio 1882;

Ritenuto che il comune di Cirigliano ha 62 elettori politici, e che la strada fra Cirigliano e Gorgoglione è in pessimo stato e impraticabile in più mesi dell'anno, per cui è reso difficile l'esercizio del diritto elettorale,

Abbiamo decretato e decretiamo :

Il comune di Cirigliano è separato dalla sezione elettorale di Gorgoglione, ed è costituito in sezione elettorale autonoma del 3° Collegio di Potenza.

Ordiniamo che il presente decreto, munito del sigillo dello Stato, sia inserto nella Raccolta ufficiale delle leggi e dei decreti del Regno d'Italia, mandando a chiunque spetti di osservarlo e di farlo osservare.

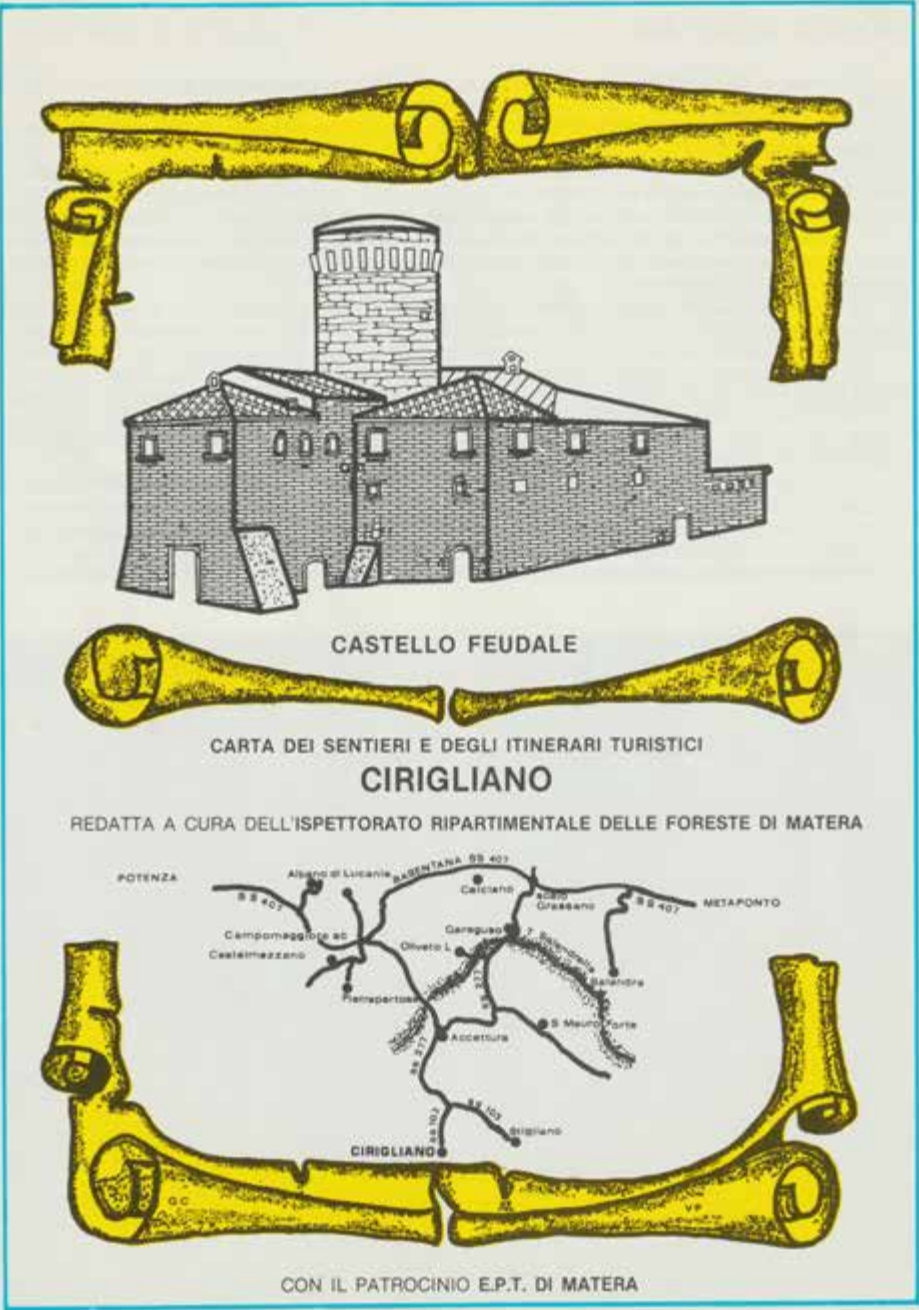
Dato a Roma, addì 1° marzo 1885.

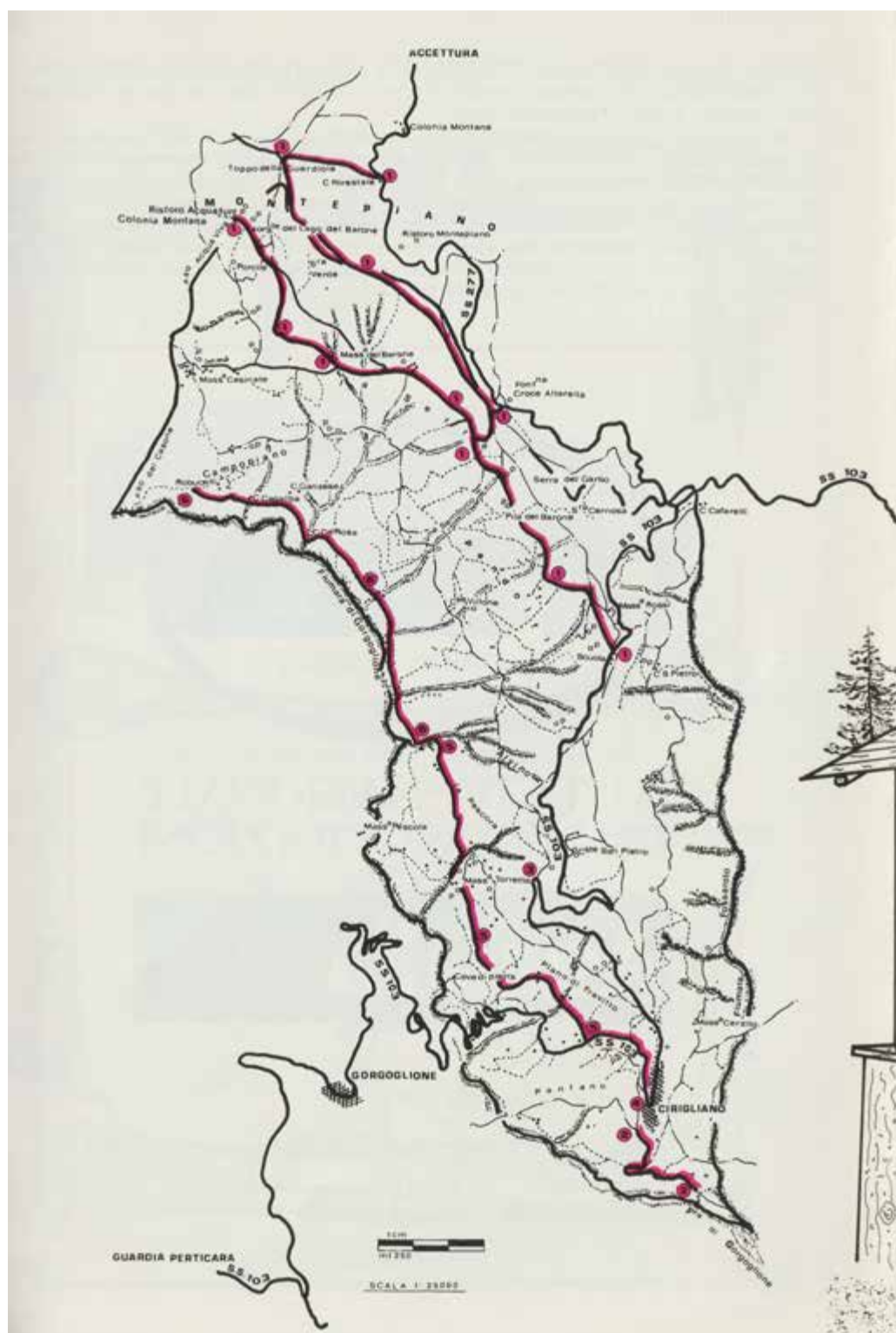
**UMBERTO.**

**DEPRETIS.**

Visto, *Il Guardasigilli*: PESSINA.

D.4 1986 – Tourist Itineraries in the Cirigliano Area

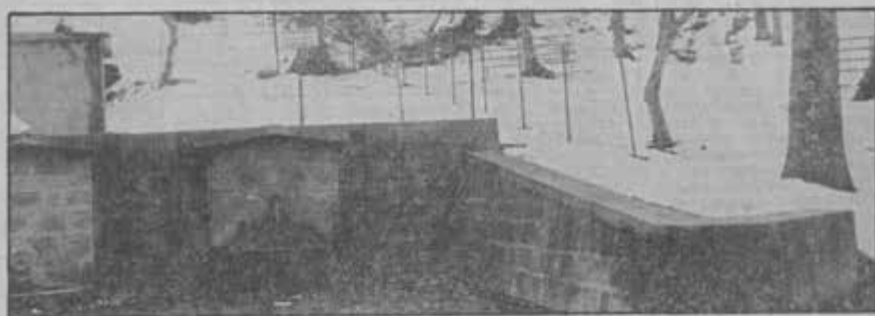




## D.5 15 November 1985 - La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno: Healing Spring Water

# Curiosità / A Montepiano di Cirigliano (Matera) Acqua curativa nel bosco di cerri

«E' diuretica e lassativa» dice un'analisi fatta eseguire dal Comune - Una fonte a 1200 metri



MATERA — Nel bosco di Montepiano di Cirigliano, in provincia di Matera, ricco di cerri ad alto fusto, a 1200 metri sul livello del mare, sgorga un'acqua — l'acqua «fur» come la chiamano gli abitanti del posto — che può essere annoverata fra quelle bicarbonato-alcaline, alcaline-terrose. E' quanto risulta dall'analisi chimica e batteriologica effettuata dal prof. Luigi Squeri dell'Istituto pluridisciplinare di Scienze igienistiche dell'Università di Messina.

Secondo il prof. Squeri, incaricato dal sindaco di Cirigliano, cav. Giuseppe Urgo, di effettuare le analisi, l'acqua sgorga dal bosco di Montepiano e prevalentemente costituita da bicarbonati di calcio o di sodio. «Tali acque — afferma il prof. Squeri — generalmente hanno azione benefica sulla mobilità gastrica favorendo i processi di digestione ed esercitando una certa azione lassativa e diuretica».

I benefici — dell'acqua «fur» — sono stati largamente sperimentati dai turisti che hanno affollato l'estate scorsa il soggiorno montano che sorge nelle vicinanze della fonte. «Esplorano azione anche sulle cellule epatiche — conclude la relazione dell'analista — determinando un aumento della secrezione biliare; sono, quindi, bene indicate in alcune affezioni epatiche. Hanno, infine,

applicazione nelle gastriti catarrali, nella calcolosi urica, nella gotta».

L'acqua sgorga dal bosco di Montepiano di Cirigliano ha avuto, il battesimo ufficiale da parte di un esperto tanto qualificato ed ha, perciò, tutte le carte in regola per trovare «un posto al sole» fra le ac-

que minerali tanto reclamizzate da televisioni e giornali. L'acqua di Cirigliano ha, però, un piccolo-grande, grosso difetto. E' quello di non avere... natali nobili, di sgorgare cioè da una fonte in un bosco cui la natura ha «strizzato l'occhio» dandogli tanta bellezza mentre gli uomini

si sono dimenticati che esiste.

Se non ci fosse stata la buona volontà del sindaco di Cirigliano, Urgo, e la «pazza idea» di un privato di creare il soggiorno montano «Cirigliano» con bungalow prefabbricati in pino svedese, forniti di tutti i confort, il bosco, che si estende per circa 7.000 ettari, avrebbe continuato a vivere la vita sonnacchiosa di sempre.

Certo, non basta la buona volontà per lanciare sul «pianeta turismo» questa località dell'alto Materano, «tesoro sommerso», da scoprire e da porre all'attenzione degli operatori del settore. Occorrono infrastrutture, investimenti, volontà politica per «inventare» un turismo montano che non esiste non solo nel bosco di Montepiano ma in quasi tutta la Basilicata.

Gli alti cerri che nascondono il sole e la mitezza del clima possono rendere felici i vacanzieri della domenica, l'ecologista che ritrova la natura incontaminata, ma non producono, certamente, turismo. Bisogna valorizzare queste zone che, soprattutto col turismo, possono cancellare l'antica povertà. E le acque minerali, come quelle del bosco di Montepiano di Cirigliano, in altri centri hanno rappresentato la ricchezza.

Stefano Mele

A Castelfranco in Miscano (Irpinia)

## Acque sulfuree toccasana per la vostra pelle

ROSETO VALFORTORE — A poco più di una ventina di chilometri da Roseto si trova Castelfranco in Miscano, piccolo paese dell'Irpinia in provincia di Benevento. Un paese agricolo e non certo opulento, che si regge su una gran massa di argilla. A circa quattro chilometri dal centro abitato ci si imbatte in un'area di circa 400 metri quadrati dall'aspetto surreale: il terreno è simile alle sabbie mobili e tutto intorno bolle di acqua sulfurea.

Desti inoltre una certa curiosità il posto è conosciuto soltanto da pochi dilettanti fotografi e da qualche archeologo e speleologo: la miriade di crateri (quasi piccoli vulcani) da cui sgorga una sorta di gas che diffonde un pungente odore di uova marce. Si è capito: la zona — chiamata località «Malvizza» — è ricca di sorgente sulfuree. In quella zona c'è soprattutto una fontana da dove fuoriesce acqua sulfurea, ottima per chi ha problemi di pelle.

Per gli amanti di misteri e leggende paesane il posto promette sorprese, ma attenzione: in contrada «Malvizza» il terreno è cedevole ed è meglio, per chi volesse avventurarsi, munirsi di scarponi adatti e lunghi bastoni.

L. V.

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- [105] *Resolution No. 36 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Dec. 5, 1964.
- [106] *Resolution of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Installing the Council and Confirming the Election of the Councillors.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. June 22, 1970.
- [107] *Resolution No. 13 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. June 22, 1970.
- [108] *Resolution No. 14 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. June 22, 1970.
- [109] *Resolution No. 31 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Installing the Council and Confirming the Election of the Councillors.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. July 5, 1975.
- [110] *Resolution No. 32 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. July 5, 1975.
- [111] *Resolution No. 33 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. July 5, 1975.
- [112] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Vincenzo Formica.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. July 10, 1975.
- [113] *Letter of Resignation from Mayor Vincenzo Formica to the Municipal Council of Cirigliano.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Sept. 24, 1976.
- [114] *Record Accepting the Resignation of the Mayor of the Municipality of Cirigliano.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, document subsequent to the resignation letter of Mayor Vincenzo Formica, Cirigliano. Sept. 24, 1976.
- [115] *Resolution No. 54 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of Giambattista Venice as Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Oct. 26, 1976.
- [116] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Giambattista Venice.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Oct. 30, 1976.
- [117] *Resolution No. 55 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Formally Acknowledging the Resignations of Councillors Bernardino Miraglia and Angelo Americo.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Nov. 29, 1976.
- [118] *Resolution No. 56 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of Two Full Municipal Alderman.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Nov. 29, 1976.
- [119] *Resolution No. 57 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of a Substitute Municipal Executive Councillor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Nov. 29, 1976.

- [120] *Resolution No. 48 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Rejecting the Resignation of Substitute Municipal Executive Councillor and Municipal Councillor Pasquale Ciliberti.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Apr. 18, 1978.
- [121] *Resolution No. 46 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Formally Acknowledging the Resignation of Full Municipal Executive Councillor Antonio Berardi.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Apr. 18, 1978.
- [122] *Resolution No. 47 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Appointment of a Full Municipal Executive Councillor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Apr. 18, 1978.
- [123] *Resolution No. 65 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Formally Acknowledging the Resignation of Substitute Municipal Executive Councillor and Municipal Councillor Francesco Scalzitti.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Nov. 10, 1979.
- [124] *Resolution No. 59 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Installing the Council and Confirming the Election of the Councillors.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. July 14, 1980.
- [125] *Resolution No. 60 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of Annibale Di Crisci as Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. July 14, 1980.
- [126] *Resolution of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, record subsequent to the election of the Mayor during the 1980–1985 council term, Cirigliano. July 14, 1980.
- [127] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Annibale Di Crisci.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Matera Prefecture, Cabinet Office. July 18, 1980.
- [128] *Instrument Delegating Powers from the Mayor of the Municipality of Cirigliano to Full Municipal Executive Councillor Giuseppe De Rosa.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, individual act of the Mayor, Cirigliano. July 23, 1980.
- [129] *File concerning the Resignation of Mayor Annibale Di Crisci and the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, letter from senior councillor Giuseppe Cirelli to the Prefect of Matera and resignation statements by the Municipal Alderman, Cirigliano. July 30, 1982.
- [130] *Decree of the Prefect of Matera Convening the Municipal Council of Cirigliano.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Prefecture of Matera, convocation of the Municipal Council to acknowledge the resignations and elect the governing bodies, Matera. Aug. 2, 1982.
- [131] *Resolution of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Formally Acknowledging the Mayor's Resignation.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Municipality of Cirigliano, council record subsequent to the resignation of Mayor Annibale Di Crisci, Cirigliano. Aug. 9, 1982.
- [132] *Resolution No. 31 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Formally Acknowledging the Resignation of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Aug. 9, 1982.
- [133] *Resolution No. 32 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of Domenico D'Anzi as Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Aug. 14, 1982.
- [134] *Resolution No. 33 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of the Municipal Executive Committee.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. Aug. 14, 1982.
- [135] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Domenico D'Anzi.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Matera Prefecture, Cabinet Office. Aug. 19, 1982.
- [136] *Communication from the Prefecture of Matera concerning the Composition of the Municipal Executive Committee of Cirigliano.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Prefecture of Matera, terminal communication, Protocol No. 3188/13.2/Gab. Aug. 20, 1982.

- [137] *Resolution No. 37 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano for the Election of Giuseppe Urgo as Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. June 1, 1985.
- [138] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Giuseppe Urgo.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Matera Prefecture, Cabinet Office. June 6, 1985.
- [139] *Resolution No. 26 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Installing the Council and Confirming the Election of the Councillors.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. June 8, 1990.
- [140] *Resolution No. 11 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Confirming the Election Results.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. May 31, 1995.
- [141] *Resolution No. 12 of the Municipal Council of Cirigliano Communicating the Appointment of the Municipal Alderman and Deputy Mayor.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Meeting of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Cirigliano, Cirigliano. May 31, 1995.
- [142] *Record of the Oath of Office of Mayor Tommaso Antonio Romeo.* Italian. State Archives of Matera, Matera Prefecture Deposit, box 147, file 1254. Matera Prefecture, Cabinet Office. May 10, 1995.